WITH [HYDRODINAMICALLY] HYDRODYNAMICALLY DESIGNED REARWARD SHOW STRAP CONNECTION [MEANS.]

Please amend page 1, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

[**DESCRIPTION**]

Please amend page 1, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

- - **FIELD OF THE INVENTION** - -

[Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates generally to articles for self-propulsion and, more particularly, to [a flipper for swimming] foot mounted articles for effecting movement through fluid media or the like.

Please amend page 1, paragraphs 4 and 5, to read as follows:

- - **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION** - -

[Description of the prior art]

[Flippers for swimmers consist] Conventional foot mounted articles for effecting movement through fluid media, e.g., fins for swimming through water, generally take the form of fins which comprise a blade [made] constructed of a relatively rigid material connected at the rear to a shoe made of a relatively yielding material. As set forth in [In] the present description, the term "relatively rigid material" [is to be understood as referring to] refers to a material such as, for example, polypropylene or the equivalent,

while the term "relatively yielding material" in the present description refers to a material such as[, for example,] a thermoplastic polymer based essentially on SEBS elastomers or the equivalent.[

] Such materials [Materials such as the ones that have just been mentioned] are commonly [employed for] used in the production of [flippers] fins for swimmers.

Please amend page 1, paragraph 6 through the remainder of the paragraph on page 2, to read as follows:

In order to protect [them] against scratches and cuts [caused] that may result when [they] the fin comes into contact with reefs, stones and the like, [the] longitudinal edges of the [rigid] blade are often lined with a yielding material [of the type of which] like that of the material comprising the shoe [is made]. [In a known manner, this] More particularly, such lining is [given the] formed [of] in lateral ribs that generally extend both above and below the plane of the blade [and] so as to improve the propulsive efficacy of the [flipper] fin without increasing the overall rigidity of the blade. According to a previous invention of the same applicant, [the aforesaid lateral] these ribs may be [made] constructed of a material having a rigidity intermediate between [the rigidity] that of the shoe and the blade. [This solution grants] In this manner, the designer [greater] has much more freedom [in the] of choice [of] in the hydrodynamic and mechanical characteristics of the [flipper] fin, which are often in contrast with each other.

Please amend page 2, first full paragraph, to read as follows:

[As is known] Generally speaking, the efficiency of a [flipper] fin depends on the [aforesaid] above-mentioned characteristics [and]. Accordingly, designers and [producers] manufacturers of [flippers therefore] fins concentrate [their attention] on them, though not without [losing sight of the need] considering that any modification[s] to the structure of [a flipper] the fin that is intended to improve [said] these characteristics [have to be integrated in a solution that will always] must also be aesthetically [attractive and] pleasing as well as original.

Please amend page 2, fourth full paragraph, to read as follows:

- - **OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION** - -

[Objects and summary of the invention]

[It is an aim] An object of the present invention is to provide a [flipper] fin for swimmers having [an] improved [propulsive] propulsion efficiency as compared [with] to conventional [flippers for swimmers] fins.

Please amend page 3, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

[This aim is] These objects and advantages are attained by improving the structure of the [flipper] fin from both [the] mechanical and [the] hydrodynamic points of view. In particular, elastic hinges extending in both the longitudinal and [the] diagonal

direction [have been] are also provided on the blade of the [flipper] fin to [permit also the] enable deformation of [the] transverse sections of the [flipper] fin. Moreover, along [Along the sides] side portions of the shoe, [moreover, there have been provided] sideways projecting fairings are utilized with a thickness at least equal to that of the buckle, so that [the liquid] fluid may flow above the buckle and not be negatively affected by its presence. Furthermore, with a view [to] toward limiting [the] any encumbrance caused by the buckle to the greatest possible extent, the blade [is provided with] has an outwardly convex hood at the connection point shaped in such a manner as to contain a connection element with which the buckle is provided to enable it to engage [with] an appropriately shaped opening [provided] on the bottom of [said] the hood.

Please amend page 3, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

- - BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS - -

[Brief description of the drawings]

[The] Other characteristics and advantages of the [flipper for swimmers in accordance with the] present invention will [appear more clearly by] become apparent from the [following] description [of a particular embodiment thereof] set forth below, which is [given by way of example] exemplary and is not to be considered [limitative] limiting in any way, [the] such description making reference to the attached drawings[, of] in which:

Please amend page 3, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

[- Figure 1] FIG. 1 is a [top] plan view of [the flipper] a fin for swimmers [in accordance with], according to one aspect of the present invention;

Please amend page 3, paragraph 4, to read as follows:

[- Figure 2] FIG. 2 is a partially sideways, inclined bottom plan view of the [flipper of Figure] fin shown in FIG. 1;

Please amend page 3, paragraph 5, to read as follows:

[- Figure 3] FIG. 3 is a side [elevation] elevational view of the [flipper in accordance with the invention] fin shown in FIG. 1;

Please amend page 4, paragraph 1, to read as follows:

[- Figure 4] FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the [flipper in accordance with the invention] fin shown in FIG. 1;

Please amend page 4, paragraph 2, to read as follows:

[- Figure 5] FIG. 5 is a perspective view of [the] a blade portion of the [flipper] fin shown in FIG. 1;

Please amend page 4, paragraph 3, to read as follows:

[- Figure 6] FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the blade of [Figure] FIG. 5 with lateral ribs [provided] along the blade edges [of the blade]; and

Please amend page 4, paragraph 4, to read as follows:

[- Figure 7] FIG. 7 is an enlarged perspective view of [the] a rear portion of the [flipper in accordance with the invention] fin shown in FIG. 1;

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph 4 on page 4:

- - The same numerals are used throughout the drawing figures to designate similar elements. Still other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments. - -

Please amend page 4, paragraph 5, to read as follows:

- - **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS** - -

[Detailed description of the invention]

Referring now to [Figures] the drawings and, more particularly, to FIGS. 1 [to] - 4, [the flipper in accordance with the invention] there is shown generally a specific,

illustrative differentiated rigidity swimming fin with hydronamically designed rearward shoe strap connection. According to one aspect of the present invention, the fin comprises a paddle or blade 1 [made] constructed of a relatively rigid material, a shoe 2 made of a relatively yielding material, and [two] a plurality of generally lateral ribs 3, preferably two, extending along the edges of blade 1, both above and below the plane of the blade, and [made] constructed of a material having rigidity characteristics intermediate between those of the blade and the shoe. [The flipper] Preferably, the fin is produced [by means of] in three successive [moulding] molding stages: First, the blade [1] is [the first to be moulded] molded, the resulting product being [as] shown in [Figure] FIG. 5; [the] second, [stage consists of moulding] the lateral ribs [3] are molded, so as to obtain[ing] the product shown in [Figure] FIG. 6[, while]; and three, the shoe [2] and the remaining parts of the flipper, made of a relatively yielding material, are [moulded] molded onto the blade [in a third stage].

Please amend page 7, paragraph 3 through the remainder of the paragraph on page 8, to read as follows:

[Variations and/or] Various modifications [may be brought to the flipper for swimmers in accordance with the present invention without departing from] and alterations to the invention may be appreciated based on a review of this disclosure. These changes and additions are intended to be within the scope and spirit of the invention as [set forth in] defined by the [appended] following claims.